

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 30, 2003, with claims 1-17. Claims 1-17 were pending prior to the amendments herein. Claims 1, 16 and 17 were the pending independent claims.

Claims 1-6, 10 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,745,277 (hereinafter "Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,907,002 (hereinafter "Beshai").

Claims 7-9, 11 and 12 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

In this response, Applicant traverses the §103(a) rejection, amends claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 16 and 17, and cancels claim 11.


The §103(a) rejection over Lee and Beshai is traversed for the reasons outlined in the previous response filed by Applicant on March 13, 2006, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16 and 17 to recite the limitations of allowable dependent claim 11, now canceled, solely in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Allowable claims 7 and 8 have also been rewritten in independent form.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that claims 1-10 and 12-17 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Ryan" clearly legible.

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